

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 9-36 have been cancelled. Claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration. Based on these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the preliminary restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action is moot. Nevertheless, Applicants elect claims 1-8.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

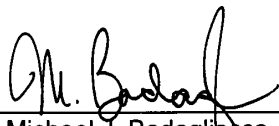
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4-30-04

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